

Colley, J.R.T., Holland, W.W., Corkhill, R.T. "Influence of Passive Smoking and Parental Phlegm on Pneumonia and Bronchitis in Early Childhood" The Lancet (November 2): 1031-1034, 1974.

SUMMARY: The incidence of pneumonia and bronchitis has been studied in 2205 infants over the first five years of life. In the same period their parents' smoking habits and respiratory symptoms were recorded annually. The incidence of pneumonia and bronchitis in the first year of life was associated with parents' smoking habits; incidence was lowest where both parents were non-smokers, highest where both smoked, and lay between these two levels where only one parent smoked. Over the age of one year the association was not consistent. When parents' respiratory symptoms were also studied a close association was found with the incidence of pneumonia and bronchitis in the child; this was independent of parents' smoking habits and was an almost consistent finding throughout the first five years of life. In the first year of life exposure to cigarette smoke generated when parents smoked doubled the risk for the infant of an attack of pneumonia or bronchitis.

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